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FRANCIS J. HENEY

By ROBERT M. LA FOLLETTE

The Press Takes great pleasure in publishing the following from Senator Robert M. La Follette. It speaks for itself.

UNITED STATES SENATE,
Committee on Corporations
Organized in the District of Columbia,
Washington, D. C.

September 28, 1914.

Dear Mr. Runckel:

I enclose you herewith signed editorial on Heney, which will appear in La Follette's this week—October 3rd. I hope it will help Heney. Last week, Sept. 26, I ran a review of Knowland's record.

You can publish the Heney editorial if you care to as soon as you receive this—with a note saying that it is to appear in La Follette's on the date named.

With all good wishes,

I am sincerely yours,
ROBERT M. LA FOLLETTE.

It is one thing to catch the tide when it is running in the right direction and ride the crest of the waves to sweeping victory. It is another thing to pull against the breakers with the jagged reefs behind and a waste of angry sea ahead.

It is one thing to seize upon a movement when the ranks of newly aroused enthusiasm are overcrowded with brave recruits, eager to serve state and country, winning fame and the plaudits of a grateful people. It is a very different thing to go out in the grey dawn, a little handful of skirmishers, to grapple with a great army of greed and lawlessness controlling the government of a helpless and disheartened people.

Spreckels, Heney, Older—no braver, abler trio ever made war on a more powerful, unscrupulous, determined foe. This public enemy had the support of the organized wealth of the state's Big Business. It owned or controlled almost the entire press of the commonwealth. It retained an army of lawyers, dictated to the police department, and found a back stairway to the chambers of many judges. It betrayed the innocent, protected the guilty, assailed character, suborned witnesses, bribed juries, intimidated justice. Forced into the open by these three dead game fighters, it began to lose, grew desperate to destroy Spreckels, kidnapped Older, and attempted the assassination of Heney. The great fight made by this little band gave the good people of California hope and courage, and laid the foundation for a new civic life, bulwarked in fundamental democracy.

Heney became known to all the world as the greatest graft prosecutor of history. But he was more than this. With the breadth of view belonging to real statesmanship, he quickly saw that punishment of the grafter could never solve the ugly problem. His penetrating mind led him back to the source of the evil undermining our free institutions.

His life saved from the assassin's bullet by a hair's breadth, his health and vigor restored, Heney plunged with all his dynamic power into the struggle to restore government to the people of California. Nothing could have been more thrilling, more compelling. He came back from the grave, undaunted, convincing. He became an irresistible force in making California a front-rank state in the forward movement for democracy in America.

Heney is an able lawyer, a debater, an orator, a brave, incorruptible leader. He is everlastingly grounded in the basic principles of that democracy for which Lincoln lived and died. In the United States Senate he would at once hearten that group of Progressive Republicans and Progressive Democrats who serve public interest regardless of consequences to their political parties or personal fortunes.

I appeal especially to the Progressive Republicans of California. You have heretofore proven your devotion to principle before all else. Here is your great opportunity. You hold the balance of power in this contest. Go to the support of Francis J. Heney with all your might and strength. Let no day pass that does not record some special work done to insure his election to the United States Senate.

ROBERT M. LA FOLLETTE.

Big Victory for Water District.

The Alameda County Water District has won a big victory over the corporations who tried to have the district killed. Judge H. D. Burroughs last Monday decided that the proceedings in forming the district were legal and it is now up to the corporations to make their next move. The decision will be printed by the Press next week.

~~There is little likelihood that the district will be further delayed in its big fight to protect our water supply.~~

The board of directors will now proceed as rapidly as possible with the big fight just ahead.

The Alvarado and Mt. Eden people should take steps at once to join the district.

The decision by Judge Burroughs absolutely sustains the formation of the district.

It is understood that the corporations will endeavor to take the matter to the Supreme Court, but it is unlikely that so careful and sound a judge as Judge Burroughs will be reversed by the Supreme Court.

The decision has cleared the way, the people now have the machinery to fight, and the people of Washington Township can rest assured that no effort will be spared by the directors to preserve the water rights of our people.

Spring Valley Purchase to Go Before the People of San Francisco.

The San Francisco Board of Supervisors by a vote of 13 to 5 decided on Monday to pass the Spring Valley purchase question up to the voters of San Francisco. The purchase price is supposed to be \$34,500,000. It really involves \$42,000,000 counting in the additional cost to which the city will be put for the building of the Calaveras dam, the additional pipe line across the bay, extensions, etc.

The five supervisors voting against the proposition represent the Union Labor element, which is strongly opposed to the Spring Valley hold-up. With any kind of an organized opposition, the project will fail to secure the two-thirds vote required. The labor element alone will be able to prevent the two-thirds vote. There are enough people in San Francisco who believe in going ahead with the Hetch Hetchy project and who believe that the city should wait until the Spring Valley no longer has the upper hand before buying out that system. There are also many who do not believe the city should buy the Spring Valley property at all. And there are many people who are hereditary enemies of the Spring Valley who will vote against it on general principles.

The job will not go through.

